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(54) Bag with resealable closure and a method of manufacturing same.

(57) A plastics bag (1) includes a closure means (2) formed from a tape which has been folded into a U-shape about a medial part. The tape includes co-operating profiled strips (3) one of male and the other of female form which engage to form a re-sealable closure. The free sides (2a) of the tape are heat sealed to the top free edges (1a) of the bag (1). The bag is manufactured by feeding sheet material (1') to a mandrel (11) and simultaneously feeding the closure tape (2) after bending in a former (7) and engaging the closure parts (3) by rollers (8) between the overlapping free sides of the tape (2). The tape (2) is heat sealed to the bag material 1' by means of heat sealing bars (13) and the cylindrical assembly is then heat sealed laterally by means of further heat sealing bars (14). The bag is filled by passing contents down a chute (15) through the middle of the mandrel (11) and by this means forming, filling and closing of the bag may all be carried out as a stepwise automatic operation.

The bags are separated by cutting through the central portion of the heat seal along X-X.

FIG. 6

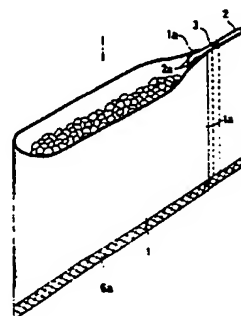
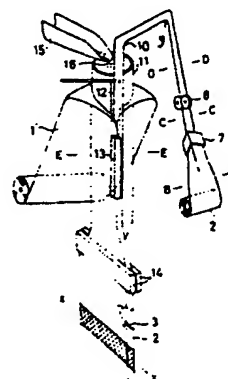


FIG. 7



Bag with Resealable Closure and a Method of Manufacturing Same

This invention relates to a bag having a resealable closure means along one side. The resealable closure means comprises respective profiled strip members which may be pressed together to close the bag and thereafter pulled apart to open the bag. Such a resealable closure device is hereinafter referred to simply as "a closure".

Figure 1 of the accompanying drawings shows a closure located along the open side 06 of a bag 05, the closure comprising two heat sealable plastic film tape members 01 and 03. The strip 01 incorporates a profiled male portion 02 and the strip 03 incorporates a complementary profiled female portion 04. The portions 02 and 04 may be pressed together to engage thereby closing the bag. By applying suitable force the closure can be opened and thereafter resealed. The closure is a form of slide fastening device and normally the parts are engaged by applying a sliding movement longitudinally from one end of the strip to the other.

In the case of this known construction of bag the strips 01 and 03 are heat sealed to the inside of the opening mouth 06 of the bag 05 during the manufacturing process of the bag body and this presents certain problems.

The strip 04 does not engage with the strip 02 unless a precise positional relationship is established between the two tapes 01 and 03 if the positioning is not precise then when the bag is closed creasing occurs which is unsightly.

Furthermore, as the bag is manufactured whilst bringing the closure together the bag cannot be filled during manufacture and it is therefore necessary to insert contents into the bag after first having opened the closure and thereafter re-closing same. After the closing operation the top of the bag can be heat sealed.

As a result such a bag is used only in special circumstances because production costs are much higher and it does not lend itself to automatic mass production particularly involving formation of the bag and filling simultaneously with articles such as foodstuffs or chemicals.

This invention seeks to overcome the aforementioned disadvantages by providing a construction of bag with a closure which can be fabricated simultaneously with the filling operation, the invention also providing a method of manufacturing such a bag.

According to this invention there is provided a bag with a resealable closure wherein the bag includes profiled strip members positioned respectively along the inside of the open mouth parts of the bag, the strip portions having complementary mutually engaging profiled portions whereby the strips may be pressed together to seal the bag and

pulled apart to enable the contents to be removed, characterised by a closure tape of U-shape and provided with mutually engaging profiled portions forming a closure, the free edges of the tape being heat sealed to the open mouth of a bag.

According to this invention there is also provided a method for the manufacture of a bag having a resealable closure, the closure comprising elongate complementarily profiled engaging strips located along an open side forming the mouth of the bag, characterised by a sheet member being conformed around a mandrel whereby free sides of the sheet are brought together into juxtaposed relationship, a closure tape member including longitudinally extending complementary engaging profiled strips being conformed to a U-shape with the strips being engaged to form a closure, the free sides of the closure strip being brought into side by side relationship with respective sides of the sheet and thereafter heat sealed, the tubular assemblage thus formed being heat sealed transversely at regular intervals to form a bag.

The invention is further described and illustrated with reference to the accompanying drawings showing embodiments of the bag and a method of manufacturing same by way of example.

Referring to the drawings:

Figure 1 shows a part sectional view of a known type of bag with a closure as previously described,

Figure 2 shows a front view of a bag with a closure according to the invention.

Figure 3 shows a perspective view of the closure tape.

Figure 4 shows a cross section on A-A of Figure 2 wherein the closure tape is heat sealed to the inside of the open mouth of the bag.

Figure 5 shows a cross section on A-A of Figure 2 but wherein the closure tape is heat sealed to the outside of the open mouth of the bag.

Figure 6 shows a perspective view of a bag after filling with contents and prior to sealing.

Figure 7 shows schematically apparatus for producing a bag with a closure and for introducing contents into the bag.

Figure 8 shows a section on B-B of Figure 7,

Figure 9 shows a section on C-C of Figure 7,

Figure 10 shows a section on D-D of Figure 7,

Figure 11 shows a section on E-E of Figure 7,

Figure 12 shows diagrammatically the method of bonding the closure tape to the bag body,

Figure 13 shows schematically the bonding of the closure tape to the outside of the bag body.

Figure 14 shows diagrammatically a further method of fabricating a bag with closure.

Figures 15 and 16 show a bag with a closure which is manufactured according to the method shown in Figure 14.

Figure 17 shows a cross-section on F-F of Figure 16.

Figures 18 and 19 show diagrammatically another method of manufacturing a bag by the apparatus shown in Figure 14, and

Figure 20 is a section on G-G of Figure 19.

In the drawings Figure 2 shows a front view of a bag with a closure according to the invention wherein the body of the bag 1 has a U-shape in cross section with a closure tape 2 having longitudinally extending mutually inter-engaging profiled portions of male form 4 and female form 5. This tape is folded about the median line and the two lower portions 2a are then heat sealed to the upper parts 1a of the bag body. Heat seals 6 and 6a are provided along the sides of the bag 1.

Figure 4 shows a section on A-A of Figure 2 wherein the parts 2a of the strip 2 have been located inside the mouth portions 1a of the bag 1 and heat sealed. Equally however the parts of the strip 2a may be heat sealed to the outside parts of the bag mouth as shown in Figure 5.

Figure 6 shows the bag 1 in which the side seal 6 is left open to enable the bag to be filled with an appropriate contents whereafter a heat sealing operation may be applied to form seal 6 along the open side of the bag. This may be effected by a heat sealing machine or the like.

Figure 7 shows somewhat diagrammatically a method of fabricating a bag with the closure device wherein the closure tape 2 is supplied from a reel in flat form as illustrated in Figure 8 and thereafter folded by means of a V-shaped guide 7 as shown in Figure 9.

Thereafter by virtue of pressure from rollers 8 the profiled portions 4 and 5 are engaged as illustrated in Figure 10. The tape is fed via guide rollers 9 and 10 to a mandrel 11. The mandrel 11 comprises a cylindrical body as illustrated in Figure 11 and tape 1', made of polyester film with a laminated polyethylene inner face, is supplied from a roller and conformed around mandrel 11 so that the two free sides are overlapped. Between the overlapped sides of the bag tape 1' the sides 2a of the tape 2 are positioned as shown in Figure 12. Simultaneously a PTFE (Teflon) tape 12 is positioned between the sides 2a of the closure strip.

In this condition the assemblage is moved between the mandrel 11 and a heat sealing bar 13 which is moved towards the mandrel to effect heat sealing of the parts 1a of the bag and parts 2a of the closure strip. The PTFE tape 12 forms a barrier preventing the parts 2a from becoming welded

together. The parts 1a and 2a may be bonded together with the closure strip located within the mouth of the bag as shown in Figure 12 or as an alternative embodiment the connection may be made with the parts 2a of the closure strip located outside the parts 1a as illustrated in Figure 13.

The bag which has been formed into a perfectly cylindrical body with precise alignment of the closure may now be heat sealed in a horizontal direction by means of heat sealing bars 14.

Contents 16 which are to be filled into the bag can be fed via a hopper 15 through the centre of the mandrel 11 and in this process the contents 16 enter the bag from the lower end of the mandrel and are thereafter sealed within the bag by operation of the heat sealing bar 14. Cutting means is operative along the line X-X as illustrated in Figure 7 and this serves to separate the bags filled with contents 16 which completes the filling process.

A further method of manufacturing a bag is shown in Figure 14 wherein the closure tape is secured to the inside of the bag opening. In this arrangement the side edges 2a of the closure tape 2 which has been formed by folding is fed between the edges 1a of tape 1' which is guided around the mandrel 11. The assembly is passed between heat sealing bars 17 and 17' which are forced together whereby the sides 1a of the bag tape 1' are secured to sides 2a of the closure strip. During this heat sealing operation an insulator 19 is interposed to prevent the sides 2a of the closure tape from being joined together. The insulator 19 may comprise PTFE material such as Teflon.

The bag 1 is formed into the cylindrical shape and advances together with the closure tape 2 as the heat sealing operation progresses. In this embodiment the tape extends along a radial plane in relation to the mandrel 11 and is positioned between the sides of the tape 1' as same is drawn around the mandrel. The assembly moves stepwise and during the heat sealing operation performed by the bars 17 and 17' a lateral heat sealing operation is carried out by heat seal bars 20 and 20' which move respectively from the front and rear. The heat seal bars 20 and 20' operate at a position after the heat insulator 19 and produce a horizontal straight seal across the tubular assembly 9 which has left the mandrel 11. During this heat sealing operation the polythene layers become fused together and thereafter the bag may be filled with contents via the interior of the mandrel 11. The assembly then moves a further step and the operation is repeated whereby the contents are completely sealed within the bag thus formed, which may thereafter be severed at a median point along the horizontal heat seal to provide an individual bag containing the contents.

Figure 15 illustrates the heat seal formed on

the cylindrical bag body 9 wherein the heat seal area indicated by cross hatching has been effected by the bars 20 and 20'. In this case the cross section of the bag is of a letter T form comprising two wings a and a bar b as illustrated in Figure 16. Figure 17 shows a partial cross section through the closure portion of the bag with the closure tape being located within the sides 1a and heat sealed thereto.

Referring now to Figure 18 this shows a different construction of formed bag produced on the same machine but in this instance the heat sealing bars 18 and 18' have been used to produce a heat seal by action from the two sides of the bag. In this instance the bars 18 and 18' engage the sides to thereby produce a bag of the shape as illustrated in Figure 19 wherein the closure is along one edge. Figure 20 is a section on G-G of Figure 10 and shows the positioning of the closure 2 within the open sides of the bag.

The construction of apparatus shown in Figure 14 thus enables bags having two different basic shapes to be manufactured with the formation of the bag and filling operation being carried out in one step during operation of the machine.

In the invention therefore the closure tape is folded in two and the sides are located within an open side of the bag body and thereafter heat sealed along the length of the tape following which transverse heat sealing is effected to form the closed bag which is filled with the contents as a continuous process.

There is therefore no need to prefabricate the bag and thereafter fill same and close the open mouth using the closure means as hitherto.

The invention is primarily applicable to the automatic packaging of mass produced products.

Claims

1. A bag with a resealable closure wherein the bag (05) includes profiled strip members (01, 03) positioned respectively along the inside of the open mouth parts of the bag, the strip portions (01, 03) having complementary mutually engaging profiled portions (02, 04) whereby the strips may be pressed together to seal the bag and pulled apart to enable the contents to be removed, characterised by a closure tape (2) of U-shape and provided with mutually engaging profiled portions (4, 5) forming a closure (3), the free edges (2a) of the tape being heat sealed to the open mouth (1a) of a bag (1).

2. A bag in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the closure (2) comprises a tape with longitudinally extending profiled portions (4, 5) integral therewith, the male portion (4) comprising an elongate ridge

and the female portions (5) comprising an elongate channel arranged so that when the tape (2) is folded about the longitudinally extending medial line the ridge (4) and channel (5) engage.

3. A bag wherein the sides thereof are closed by a heat sealing operation (6a).

4. A method for the manufacture of a bag having a resealable closure, the closure comprising elongate complementarily profiled engaging strips located along an open side forming the mouth of the bag, characterised by a sheet member (1') being conformed around a mandrel (11) whereby free sides (1a) of the sheet (1') are brought together into juxtaposed relationship, a closure tape member (2) including longitudinally extending complementary engaging profiled strips (4, 5) being conformed to a U-shape with the strips (4 and 5) being engaged to form a closure (3), the free sides (2a) of the closure strip being brought into side by side relationship with respective sides (1a) of the sheet (1') and thereafter heat sealed, the tubular assemblage thus formed being heat sealed transversely at regular intervals to form a bag.

5. A method in accordance with Claim 4, wherein the bag is filled by introducing contents through the centre of the mandrel (11), individual bags being separated by severing along a median line through the transverse heat seal.

6. A method in accordance with Claim 4 or 5, carried out stepwise wherein the tape is heat sealed to the sheet material by a longitudinally extending heat sealing means simultaneously with heat sealing in the transverse direction, the assembly thereafter being moved a distance corresponding to the selected bag width, the bag then being filled with contents and the heat sealing operation repeated.

7. A method of making a bag in accordance with any preceding Claim 4 to 6, wherein the sides of the sheet (1') are overlapped and engaged with the closure tape on a plane extending generally at a tangent to the surface of the mandrel.

8. A method in accordance with any preceding Claim 4 to 6, wherein the sides of the sheet (1') are overlapped and engaged with the closure tape (2) in a plane generally extending in a radial direction with respect to the mandrel (11).

9. A method in accordance with any preceding Claim 4 to 7, wherein the free sides (2a) of the closure tape are engaged to the outside of the free sides (1a) of the sheet (1').

10. A method of manufacturing a bag in accordance with any preceding Claim 4 to 8, wherein the free sides (2a) of the closure tape (2) are engaged between the free sides (1a) of the sheet (1').

11. A method in accordance with any preceding Claim 4 to 10, wherein a heat insulating member (12) is positioned between the respectively engaged sides (1a) of the sheet (1') and (2a) of the closure tape (2) prior to the heat sealing operation.

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FIG. 1

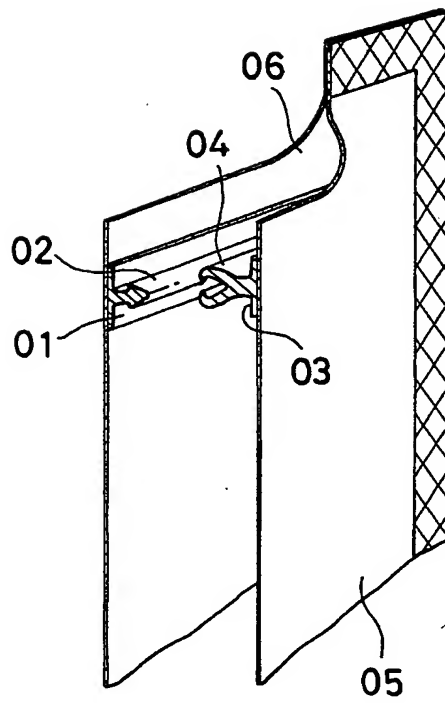


FIG. 2

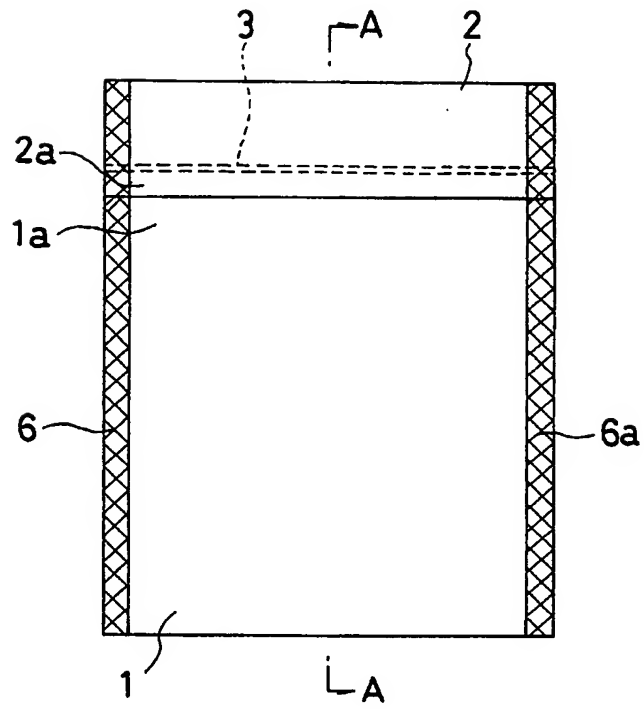


FIG. 3

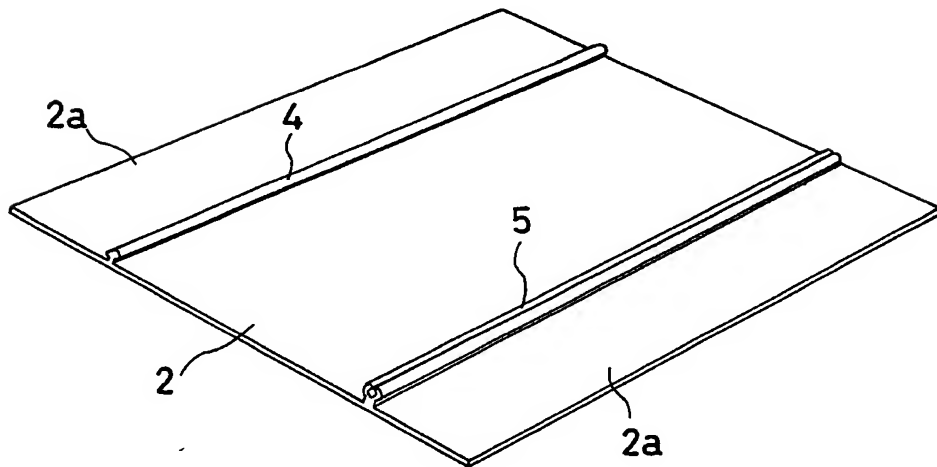


FIG. 4

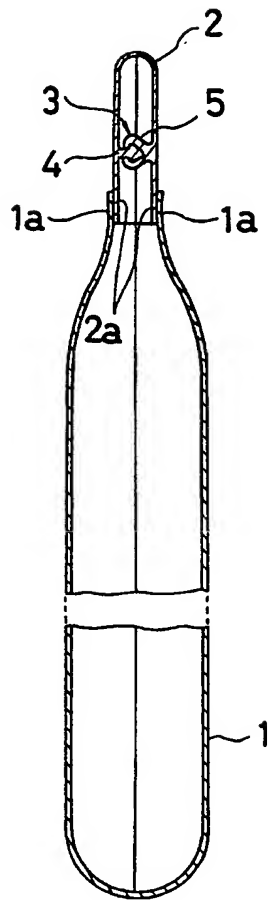


FIG. 5

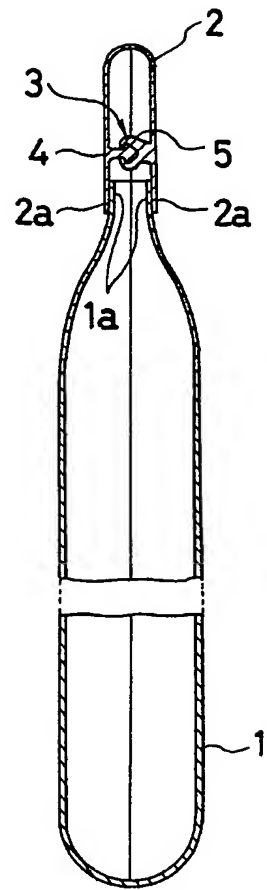


FIG. 6

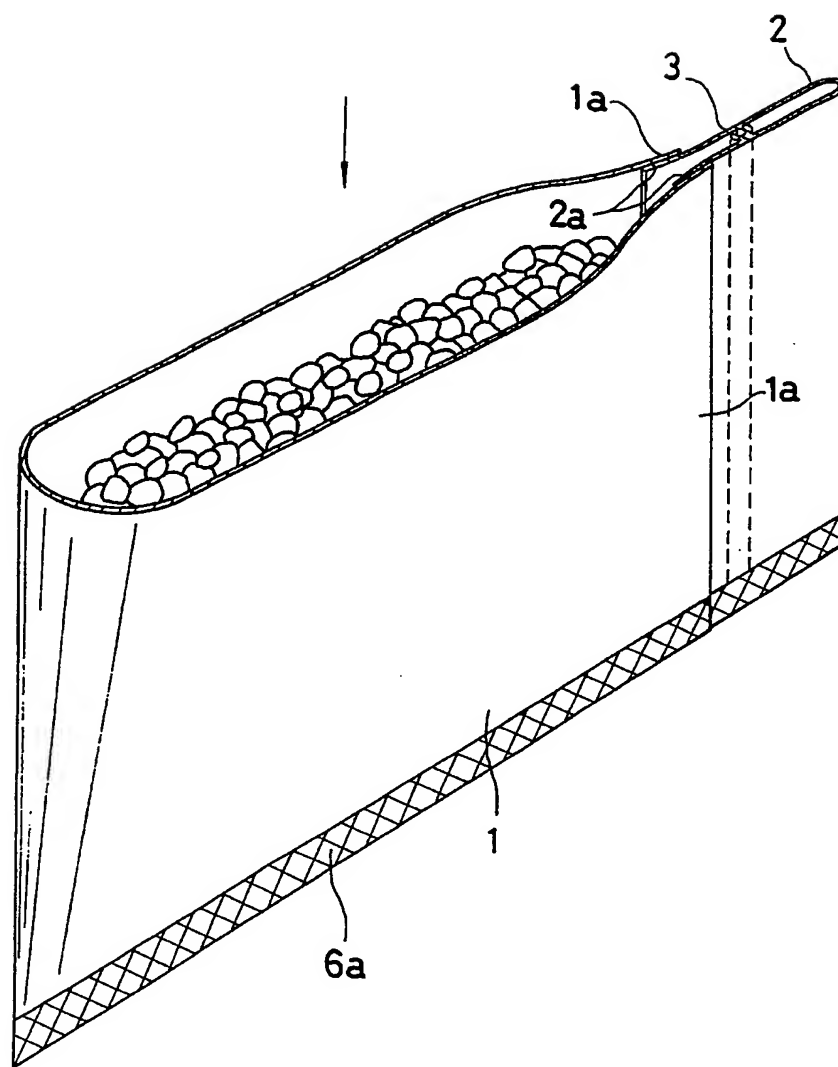


FIG. 7

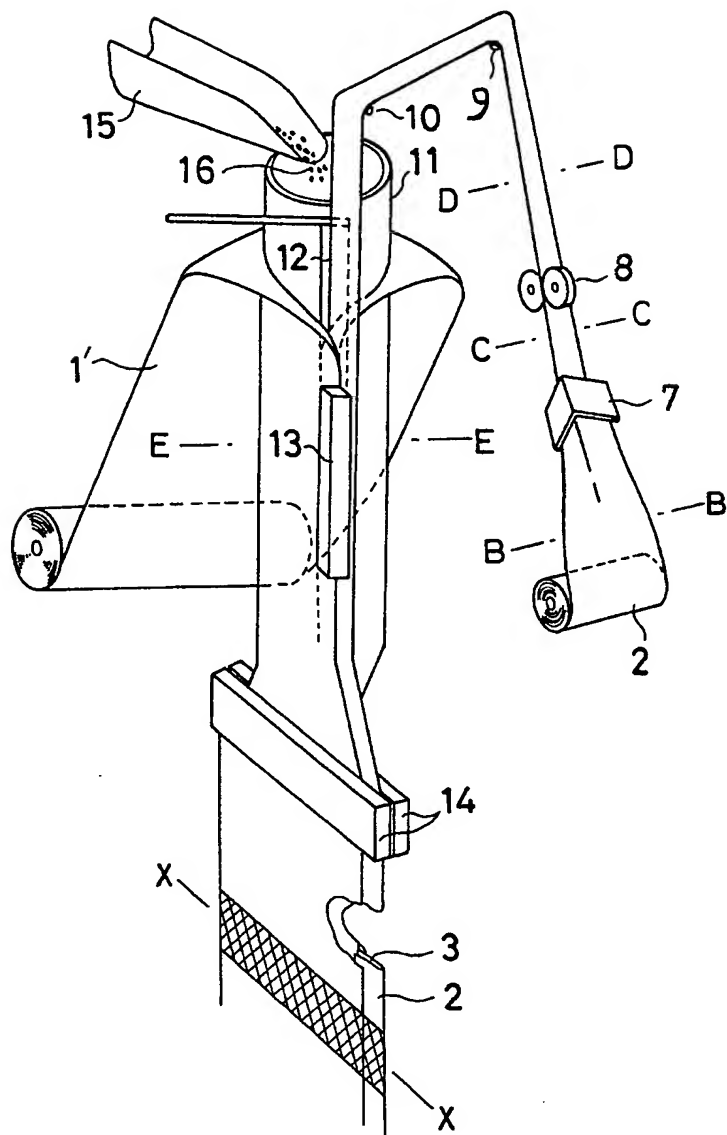


FIG. 8

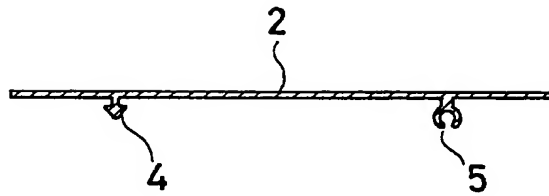


FIG. 9

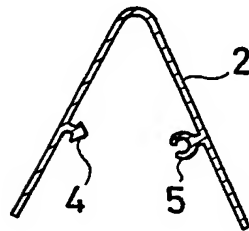


FIG. 10

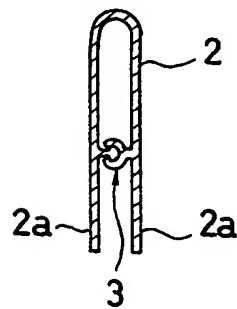


FIG. 11

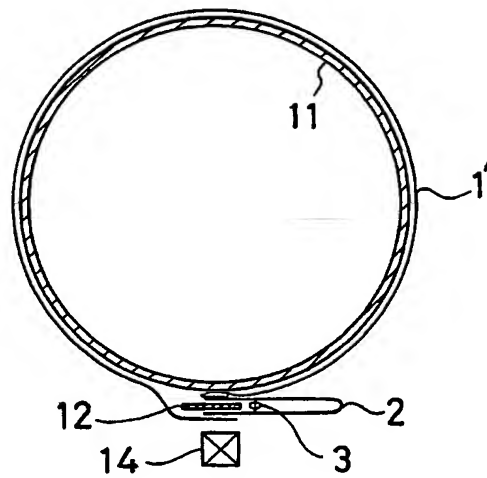


FIG. 12

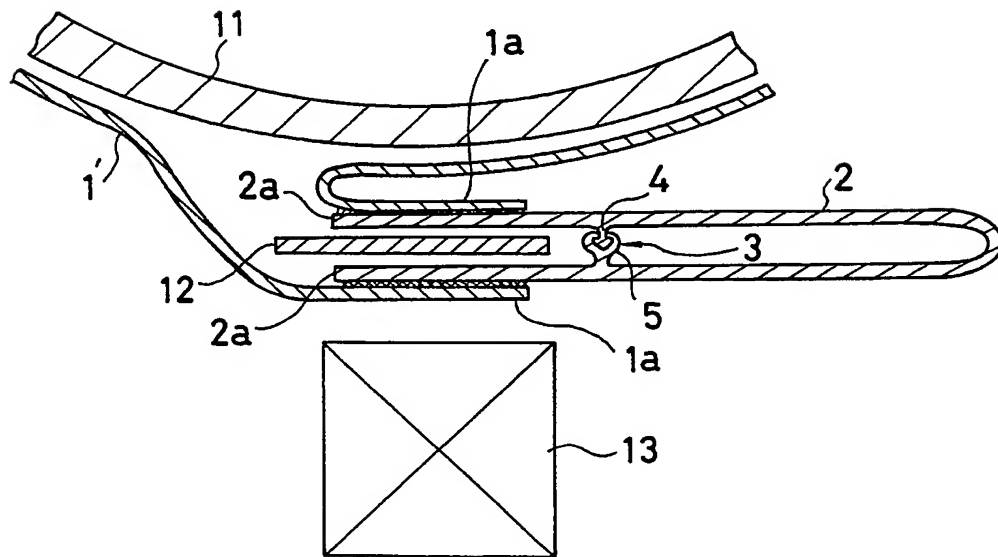


FIG. 13

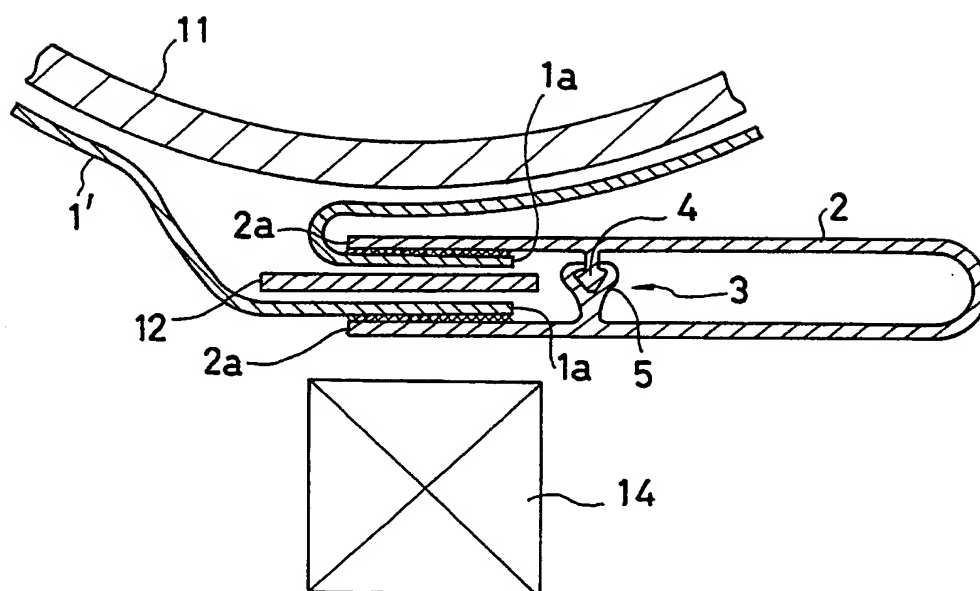


FIG. 15

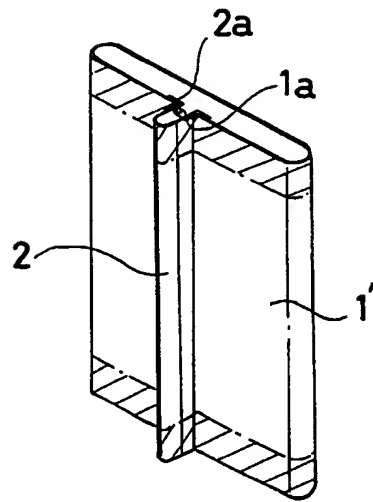


FIG. 16

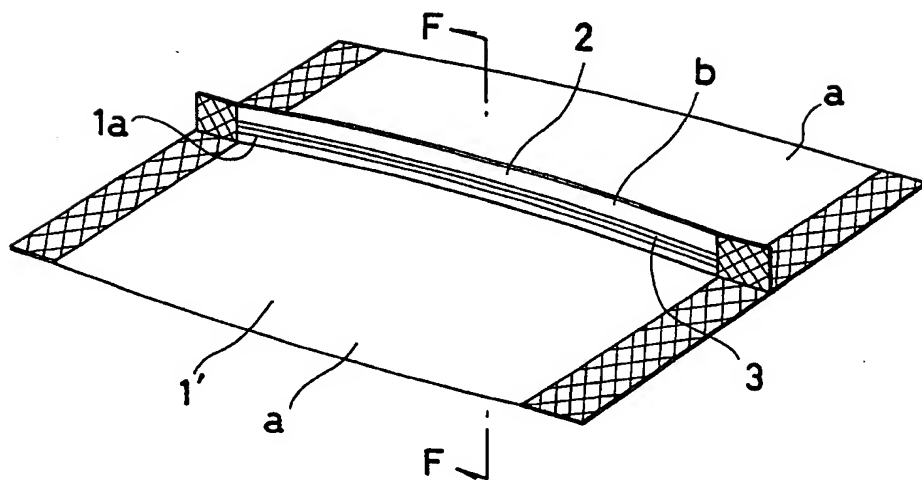


FIG. 17

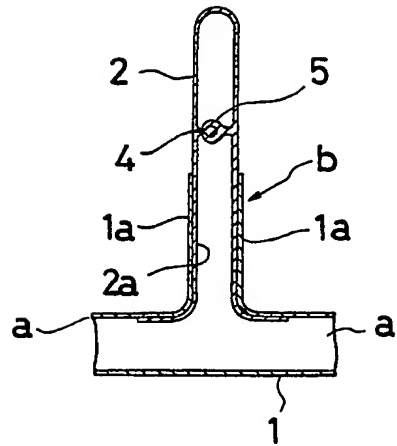


FIG. 18

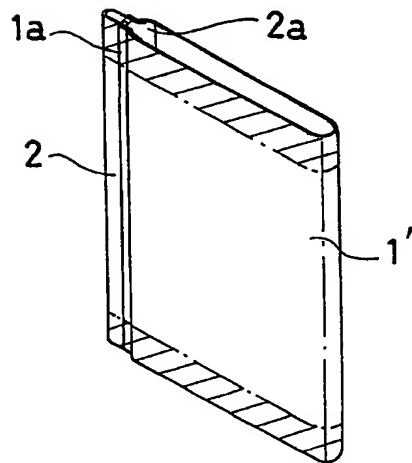


FIG. 19

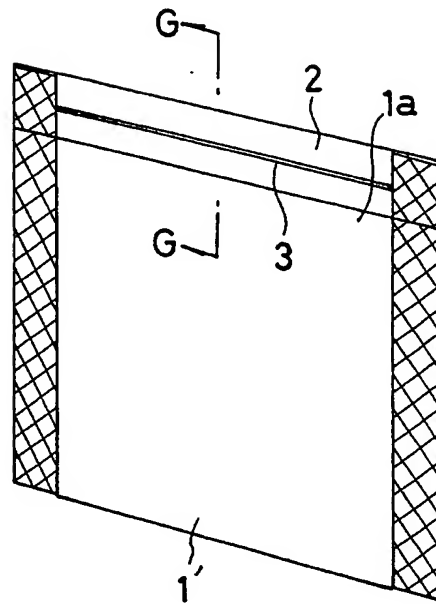


FIG. 20

